



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/996,956	11/30/2001	Zairen Sun	9U 301 R1	2406

26400 7590 04/09/2003

ORIGENE TECHNOLOGIES, INCORPORATED
6 TAFT COURT
SUITE 100
ROCKVILLE, MD 20850

EXAMINER

UNGAR, SUSAN NMN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

1642

DATE MAILED: 04/09/2003

3

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/996,956

Applicant(s)

Sun et al

Examiner

Ungar

Art Unit

1642



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE one MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Nov 30, 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claims 1-20 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 6) ☐ Other:

Art Unit: 1642

1. Claims 1-20 are pending in the application and are currently under prosecution.

Please Note: In an effort to enhance communication with our customers and reduce processing time, Group 1640 is running a Fax Response Pilot for Written Restriction Requirements. A dedicated Fax machine is in place to receive your responses. The Fax number is 703-308-4315. We encourage your participation in this Pilot program. If you have any questions or suggestions please contact Anthony Caputa, Ph.D., Supervisory Patent Examiner at 703-308-3995. Thank you in advance for allowing us to enhance our customer service. Please limit the use of this dedicated Fax number to responses to Written Restrictions.

2. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. § 121:

Group 1. Claims 1,2, 18, are drawn to an isolated polynucleotide, SEQ ID NO:1 and an array classified in Class 536, subclass 23.1.

Group 2. Claims 1,3, 18 are drawn to an isolated polynucleotide, SEQ ID NO:3 and an array classified in Class 536, subclass 23.1.

Group 3. Claims 1, 4, 18 are drawn to an isolated polynucleotide, SEQ ID NO:4 and an array classified in Class 536, subclass 23.1.

Group 4-13. Claims 5, 6 are drawn to 10 different probes, classified in Class 536, subclass 23.1. Applicant must elect a single invention for examination. Claim 6 will be examined as it is drawn to the elected probe of claim 5.

Art Unit: 1642

3. It is noted that the claims of the instant application have been determined to include linking claims. The restriction requirement among the linked inventions is subject to the nonallowance of the linking claim(s), 7. Upon the allowance of the linking claim(s), the restriction requirement as to the linked inventions shall be withdrawn and any claim(s) depending from or otherwise including all the limitations of the allowable linking claim(s) will be entitled to examination in the instant application. Applicant(s) are advised that if any such claim(s) depending from or including all the limitations of the allowable linking claim(s) is/are presented in a continuation or divisional application, the claims of the continuation or divisional application may be subject to provisional statutory and/or nonstatutory double patenting rejections over the claims of the instant application. Where a restriction requirement is withdrawn, the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 121 are no longer applicable. *In re Ziegler*, 44 F.2d 1211, 1215, 170 USPQ 129, 131-32 (CCPA 1971). See also MPEP § 804.01.

Group 14-23. Claims 7-11 are drawn to a method of detecting prostate tissue comprising assaying with a probe for SEQ ID NO:1 wherein the probe is any one of SEQ ID Nos 7-14, each of which is a distinct invention.

Applicant is required to elect a single group for examination. It is noted that this is not a species election, but rather is drawn to a restriction among linked inventions.

4. It is noted that the claims of the instant application have been determined to include linking claims. The restriction requirement among the linked inventions is subject to the nonallowance of the linking claim(s), 7. Upon the allowance of the

Art Unit: 1642

linking claim(s), the restriction requirement as to the linked inventions shall be withdrawn and any claim(s) depending from or otherwise including all the limitations of the allowable linking claim(s) will be entitled to examination in the instant application. Applicant(s) are advised that if any such claim(s) depending from or including all the limitations of the allowable linking claim(s) is/are presented in a continuation or divisional application, the claims of the continuation or divisional application may be subject to provisional statutory and/or nonstatutory double patenting rejections over the claims of the instant application. Where a restriction requirement is withdrawn, the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 121 are no longer applicable. *In re Ziegler*, 44 F.2d 1211, 1215, 170 USPQ 129, 131-32 (CCPA 1971). See also MPEP § 804.01.

Group 24-33. Claims 7-11 are drawn to a method of detecting prostate tissue comprising assaying with a probe for SEQ ID NO:3 wherein the probe is any one of SEQ ID Nos 7-14, each of which is a distinct invention.

Applicant is required to elect a single group for examination. It is noted that this is not a species election, but rather is drawn to a restriction among linked inventions.

5. It is noted that the claims of the instant application have been determined to include linking claims. The restriction requirement among the linked inventions is subject to the nonallowance of the linking claim(s), 7. Upon the allowance of the linking claim(s), the restriction requirement as to the linked inventions shall be withdrawn and any claim(s) depending from or otherwise including all the limitations of the allowable linking claim(s) will be entitled to examination in the

Art Unit: 1642

instant application. Applicant(s) are advised that if any such claim(s) depending from or including all the limitations of the allowable linking claim(s) is/are presented in a continuation or divisional application, the claims of the continuation or divisional application may be subject to provisional statutory and/or nonstatutory double patenting rejections over the claims of the instant application. Where a restriction requirement is withdrawn, the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 121 are no longer applicable. *In re Ziegler*, 44 F.2d 1211, 1215, 170 USPQ 129, 131-32 (CCPA 1971). See also MPEP § 804.01.

Group 34-43. Claims 7-11 are drawn to a method of detecting prostate tissue comprising assaying with a probe for SEQ ID NO:4 wherein the probe is any one of SEQ ID Nos 7-14, each of which is a distinct invention.

Applicant is required to elect a single group for examination. It is noted that this is not a species election, but rather is drawn to a restriction among linked inventions.

6. It is noted that the claims of the instant application have been determined to include linking claims. The restriction requirement among the linked inventions is subject to the nonallowance of the linking claim(s), 12. Upon the allowance of the linking claim(s), the restriction requirement as to the linked inventions shall be withdrawn and any claim(s) depending from or otherwise including all the limitations of the allowable linking claim(s) will be entitled to examination in the instant application. Applicant(s) are advised that if any such claim(s) depending from or including all the limitations of the allowable linking claim(s) is/are presented in a continuation or divisional application, the claims of the continuation or

Art Unit: 1642

divisional application may be subject to provisional statutory and/or nonstatutory double patenting rejections over the claims of the instant application. Where a restriction requirement is withdrawn, the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 121 are no longer applicable. *In re Ziegler*, 44 F.2d 1211, 1215, 170 USPQ 129, 131-32 (CCPA 1971). See also MPEP § 804.01.

Group 44-46. Claims 12-13 are drawn to a method of retrieving prostate specific gene sequences from a computer-readable medium, wherein the SEQ is SEQ ID NO, 1,3 or 4, each of which is a distinct invention, classified in Class 702/19. Applicant must elect a single Group for examination. It is noted that this is not a species election, but rather is drawn to a restriction among linked inventions.

Group 47-49. Claims 14-15 are drawn to a method of identifying a binding partner for Pr22a, PR33b or PRB008, each of which is a distinct invention, classified in Class 435, subclass 6. Applicant is required to elect a single invention for examination. It is noted that this is not a species election, but rather is drawn to a restriction among linked inventions.

7. It is noted that the claims of the instant application have been determined to include linking claims. The restriction requirement among the linked inventions is subject to the nonallowance of the linking claim(s), 16. Upon the allowance of the linking claim(s), the restriction requirement as to the linked inventions shall be withdrawn and any claim(s) depending from or otherwise including all the limitations of the allowable linking claim(s) will be entitled to examination in the instant application. Applicant(s) are advised that if any such claim(s) depending

Art Unit: 1642

from or including all the limitations of the allowable linking claim(s) is/are presented in a continuation or divisional application, the claims of the continuation or divisional application may be subject to provisional statutory and/or nonstatutory double patenting rejections over the claims of the instant application. Where a restriction requirement is withdrawn, the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 121 are no longer applicable. *In re Ziegler*, 44 F.2d 1211, 1215, 170 USPQ 129, 131-32 (CCPA 1971). See also MPEP § 804.01.

Group 50-52. Claims 16-17 are drawn to a computer-readable medium, which comprises SEQ ID NO, 1,3 or 4, each of which is a distinct invention, classified in Class 702/19. Applicant must elect a single Group for examination. It is noted that this is not a species election, but rather is drawn to a restriction among linked inventions.

Group 53. Claims 19-20 are drawn to polynucleotide comprising SEQ ID NO:6, classified in Class 536, subclass 23.1.

8. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions 1-13, 50-53 as disclosed are biologically and chemically distinct, unrelated in structure and function, made by and used in different methods and are therefore distinct inventions.

Inventions 14-49 are materially distinct methods which differ at least in objectives, method steps, reagents and/or dosages and/or schedules used, response variables, and criteria for success.

Art Unit: 1642

The inventions of Groups 1-13 and 14-43, 47-49 are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (I) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (ii) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product [see *MPEP* § 806.05(h)]. In the instant case the polynucleotide product as claimed can be used in a materially different process such as producing the encoded protein or peptide.

The inventions of Groups 50-52 and 44-4614-43, 47-49 are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (I) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (ii) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product [see *MPEP* § 806.05(h)]. In the instant case the computer-readable medium product as claimed can be used in a materially different process such as storing the instant

The inventions of Groups 50-52 and 14-43, 47-49 are not at all related because the computer readable medium of Groups 50-52 are not at all used in any of the methods of Groups 14-43, 47-49.

The inventions of Groups 53 and 14-49 are not at all related because it does not appear that the invention of Group 53 is used in any of the methods of Groups 14-49.

9. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification and/or

Art Unit: 1642

recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

10. Groups 14-43 are further subject to election of a single disclosed species.

Claim 7 is generic to a plurality of disclosed patentably distinct species comprising methods which differ at least in objectives, method steps, reagents and/or dosages and/or schedules used, response variables, and criteria for success wherein the methods are (a) Northern blot analysis, (b) PCR, (c) RT-PCR, (d) RACE PCR, (e) in situ hybridization, all of claim 10

11. Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 of the other invention.

12. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 C.F.R.

§ 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a diligently-filed petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(h).

13. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103, the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered

Art Unit: 1642

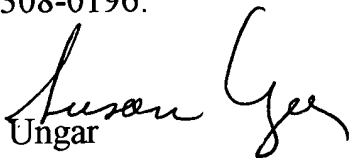
therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of potential 35 U.S.C. § 102(f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

14. Applicant is advised that the response to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed.

15. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Susan Ungar, PhD whose telephone number is (703) 305-2181. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 7:30am to 4pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anthony Caputa, can be reached at (703) 308-3995. The fax phone number for this Art Unit is (703) 308-4242.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.


Susan Ungar
Primary Patent Examiner
April 7, 2003